

during the whole of the experiment, and that it had not been near the girl during the entire trial.

After a somewhat lengthened conversation Dr. Elliotson suggested that the experiment with the nickel should be tried once more. This proposition was consented to; and during the performance of the experiment Dr. Elliotson remained in the other room, while Mr. Wakley, Mr. Herring, and Mr. Clarke, went to the patient to renew the operation. Again was the nickel handed privately to Mr. Clarke, and the lead and farthing were applied as before, with the pasteboard held in front of the patient's face. In three or four minutes there was a re-appearance of the flushed countenance, the staring eyes, the rigid limbs, the bent back, and the distorted frame although *no nickel had been used*—nothing, in short, but the lead and the farthing.

A report of these results was conveyed to Dr. Elliotson and the gentlemen who had remained with him, when Dr. Elliotson said that the occurrence was most extraordinary; that he could not at that moment account for it; and that he had no doubt that an explanation could soon be found which would remove all appearance of anomaly in the results. He would, he said, again suggest that the nickel should be re-employed; and as this request was so urgently made, Mr. Herring, Mr. Wakley, and Mr. Clarke, again visited O'Key, for the purpose of proceeding with the trial, but instead of using the nickel, the lead and farthing were again employed, with the same results as before. There was another fit. Afterwards, when the girl had recovered from the apparent paroxysm, Mr. Wakley suggested that the magnetized nickel should be rubbed over both hands freely, on the skin, in different places, but not exactly in the manner in which the lead and farthing had been employed. No effect was produced by this application of the nickel.

On hearing a further report of the effects which appeared to arise from the use of the lead and the farthing, and the absence of effects when the nickel was really used, after the other experiments had been concluded, Dr. Elliotson candidly admitted that he "could not explain how the thing had occurred; it was most extraordinary, but still he had not the slightest doubt that the whole would yet admit of a satisfactory explanation."

Mr. Wakley, on the other hand, contended that what had been done was, in his opinion, perfectly conclusive with reference to the character of the supposed phenomena, and that he did not consider that a single additional experiment could ever be necessary, in connection with such an inquiry.

Similar experiments, and with similar results, were again made on the 17th, and Jane O'Key, the other sister, also subjected to scrutinizing trials with mesmerized water, sovereigns, &c. &c. It is sufficient to remark, that on proper precautions being used, all the experiments totally failed.—*London Medical Gazette*, September, 1838, and *Lancet*, September, 1838.

66. *Animal Magnetism in Paris*.—Animal magnetism has met with as severe a blow in Paris, as from the preceding article, it will be perceived, it has in London.

During the discussion which ensued on the report of the last commission appointed by the Academy of Medicine, M. BURDIN, a member of the Academy, offered a prize of 3,000 francs "to any one who could produce a person capable of reading without the assistance of eyes, or of light, or of the touch. The decision was to be left in the hands of a commission to be appointed by the Academy; but only one candidate for the munificent premium appeared. A Dr. Pigeaire, of Montpellier, wrote that his daughter, a girl of fourteen years old, could accomplish the feat, when placed in the magnetic state by her mother. A commission, consisting of MM. Double, Husson, Chomel, Morreau, Louis, Dubois (d'Amiens), and Gerardin, was therefore at once appointed to inquire into the case, and Dr. Pigeaire came up from Montpellier to Paris.

"M. Burdin allowed, at the request of Dr. Pigeaire, that the book from which his blind-folded daughter was to read, might be placed in the light, and that touching it might be permitted, so far as that sense was not made supple-

mentary or subsidiary to sight; and he left it to the commission to decide whether the bandage employed to blind-fold the patient with, was satisfactorily capable of excluding all light. The father presented one to the commission, with an offer of a thousand *sous* to any one who, in the normal state, could read with it on. It was to consist of three pieces of black velvet: the eyes were to be padded over with cotton, and then covered below with a double band of fine linen. If this kind were satisfactory, they might themselves have another made, but it must be of the same form, lest a disturbance of the habit which the girl had fallen into, might prevent the full development of the clairvoyant state, and of the same materials, because it had been found that velvet did not obstruct the passage of the mesmeric fluid. If, however, such another was made, it would be necessary, wrote Dr. Pigeaire, that his daughter should make first a trial of it, in presence of the President of the Commission and the Secretary of the Academy; and if Madame Pigeaire was satisfied with it, it should then be delivered into the custody of the President, to be kept under lock and key till the commission met to make their decision. He proposed also that the commission should be divided into two parts; that if a first experiment failed, four trials should be allowed in each series; but that if one experiment succeeded, the commission should for that time consider its mission ended. The lower edge of the bandage, he granted, should be glued with silk to the cheeks and sides of the nose; and the book was to be covered with a flat piece of glass, which must be allowed to lie quite steady, and to keep the book quite open.

"A meeting was now fixed, and a bandage was offered by the commission to M. Pigeaire, in accordance with what M. Burdin required of them. But he refused it, saying that it was necessary there should be no space between the bandage and the eyes, which ought to be in immediate contact. They therefore offered to let him pad it, so that it might exactly fit and come in contact with the eyes: he refused, and said that he had tried numerous descriptions of bandage for blindfolding his daughter in vain; that all had produced bad symptoms in her, when in the somnambulic state, except his own, which he now offered, and which was the only proper one to be used, and could not be replaced. The commission then offered that she should wear the bandage which he presented, provided she were covered by a moveable veil, which should intervene between her face and the book she was to read from. This, however, he also declined, on the ground that he had reason to believe that she read with the nerves of her face; and it was then suggested that a screen should be adapted with two conical appendages which should permit the light reflected from the book to fall on her cheeks, but should prevent it from coming to the lower edge of the bandage; but this condition he in like manner refused to submit to.

"He answered further to the inquiries which were made, that she would begin to read in from a quarter of an hour to an hour and a half after the application of the bandage, or the commencement of the magnetic state; that it was necessary the book should be placed either on her knees or on the lath immediately before her; and that she must be allowed to place it as she liked, but that she could never read from it if it were held directly before her on a level with her eyes. They observed that when the bandage was put on over the girl's eyes, she used great exertions in moving the muscles of her face and lips, as if to displace it; but that, he said, was sometimes her habit, when in the magnetic state, though she could see just as well when she did not do so as when she did. He added, that at one time she used to be able to read from a book which was shut up in a box; but when the commissioners said they should deem it perfectly satisfactory if she would do that, he answered that he could not be answerable for her possessing the same power now. He said, too, that it would throw her into convulsions if the fingers of one of the commissioners were placed on the lower edge of the bandage over her eyes while she was trying to read.

"Hearing all this, the commission declined the inquiry, because M. Burdin's demands were not at all complied with, the bandage for blindfolding not being in their opinion sufficient for the purpose, and the position in which the book

was to be placed being favourable to the transmission of light to the eyes under the lower edge of the bandage.

"The report detailing the above proceedings, and from which our abstract of them is taken, was read before the Academy on the 14th ult., when M. Cornac, who had been present at the meeting between the commission and M. Pigeaire, said that Madame P. had, in his presence, placed the several pieces of velvet in succession over her daughter's eyes, and had then glued two broad hands of English taffetas from their lower edge to the cheeks, and two more by the sides of the nose, in the angles between it and the eyes. The girl being then magnetized, he took a volume of Malherbe's works from his pocket, and placed it before her in the manner required. She grew impatient, and appeared annoyed and harassed; at last she read slowly and with difficulty, two couplets of an ode, all the time frequently putting her hands to the bandage, and working actively and strongly with the muscles of her cheeks and lips. The bandage was then removed from above downwards; and if, said M. Cornac, we could not see any gaps in it, we will not assert that there were none. He himself, however, could not distinguish light from darkness when it was put over his eyes; and M. Gerdy could only tell that distinction. M. Velpeau was able to see under its lower edge sufficiently to distinguish a card, the ace of diamonds. M. Dubois said that it was at the first glance evident that light could be admitted to the eyes under the edge of the bandage for blindfolding, and that there was ample confirmation of this in the refusal to permit it to be kept close by the fingers, or be covered with the screen."—*London Med. Gaz. for Sept. 1838.*

67. *Vaccine Virus fresh from the Cow.*—Not long after the discovery of vaccination, it was suggested, that the virus, in its transmissions through numerous human systems, might become deteriorated, and the protective power it afforded, thus rendered imperfect, or altogether null; and it was recommended that it should at certain times be regenerated by resorting again to its original source.

As mentioned, however, in our last No., the original source was lost almost immediately after it was discovered, and it is only within a short period that it has again been met with. In addition to the localities where we have already stated it to have been found, it has very recently been discovered in Gloucestershire, England.

Mr. ESTLIN, of Bristol, who has in vain been endeavouring for several years to renew the lymph from its original source, has obtained some from this last locality, through the kindness of a friend who sent him some taken from the hand of a person who had contracted sores by milking diseased cows. Mr. Estlin has since employed this virus, and has distributed the lymph thus obtained with a desire to propagate it.

A portion of the lymph from this source, ten or twelve removes from the cow, has been received in this city by Dr. Dunglison, and has been employed by Dr. Bridges, one of our city vaccine physicians, who seems satisfied of its genuineness. Some has likewise been received in New York and Boston, and been used there. What confidence is to be reposed in this new virus can only be determined by experience.